

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for administering a session-based concurrent user licensing agreement on a manufacturing/process control information portal such that a single logon during a session persists across multiple distinct resources to which access is provided via the plant information portal site, the method comprising the steps:

receiving, by the portal server, an access request to a resource for which a license is required;

invoking, based upon a code within a sequence of commands associated with the requested resource, a license manager associated with restricted resources associated with the portal, the license manager performing the further steps of:

first confirming that an identified source associated with the request does not possess a concurrent user license;

second confirming that a concurrent license is available to assign to the identified source; and

adding the identified source to a persistent list of concurrent users to which a concurrent user license is assigned.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the second confirming step is based upon a maximum number of allowed concurrent license claims under an established concurrent license agreement maintained by the license manager.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the invoking step is performed in response to an attempt by a particular identified user-session to access portal resources via a web page provided by the portal.